

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR OPEN MEETING
OF THE NEW WESTMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Tuesday, September 29, 2020, 7:00 PM
Via Webex Livestream**

PRESENT

Anita Ansari, Chair
Dee Beattie, Trustee
Danielle Connelly, Trustee
Gurveen Dhaliwal, Vice Chair
Mark Gifford, Trustee
Mary Lalji, Trustee
Maya Russell, Trustee

Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent
Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer
Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent
Robert Weston, Executive Director, Human Resources
Guests:
Members of the Public
Tanis Anderson, District Vice Principal of Early Learning
Gordana Ballarin, Human Resources Manager – Teaching / Administration
Matt Brito, Maintenance Manager
Bruce Cunnings, Director of Instruction and Learning Services
Dave Crowe, Director of Capital Projects
Eric Kardoes, Director of Information Technology
Kristen Keighley-Wight, Communications Manager
Karen Klein, Director of International Education
Larissa Koke, Human Resources Manager – CUPE/Exempt
Iain Lancaster, District Vice Principal of Programs & Planning
Mark Layzell, Operations and Transportation Manager
John Lekakis, Vice Principal, Grade 12, NWSS
Julie MacLellan, Reporter, New Westminister Record
Marcel Marsolais, President, CUPE Local 409
Murray McLeod, Principal, NWSS
Maureen McRae-Stanger, Director of Instruction, Learning & Innovations
James Pocher, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Sarah Wethered, President, NWTU
Caroline Manders, Recording Secretary

The New Westminister School District recognizes and acknowledges the Qayqayt First Nation, as well as all Coast Salish peoples, on whose traditional and unceded territories we live, we learn, we play and we do our work.

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Due to computer difficulties, Chair Ansari asked Vice Chair Dhaliwal to Chair the meeting on her behalf. The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

2020-049

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminister) adopt the agenda for the September 29, 2020 Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- a. Minutes from the Open Meeting held:
i. June 23, 2020 Regular Meeting

**2020-050
Moved and Seconded**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for the June 23, 2020 Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Business Arising from the Minutes
Nil.

3. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Orange Shirt Week
Associate Superintendent Naser introduced NWSS Principal Murray McLeod and Vice Principal John Lekakis who presented on activities taking place during Reconciliation Week. A \$1,200 bursary has been set up in Chief Larrabee's honour.
- b. 2020-21 Strategic Plan Review
Superintendent Hachlaf provided a brief overview and introduced the team leaders who provided highlights from their respective areas of focus: Learning, IT and Communications; Finance, Facilities and Capital Projects; and Human Resources.
Chair Ansari thanked everyone for their presentations.

4. COMMENT & QUESTION PERIOD FROM VISITORS

Please note questions will be answered during Question Period near the end of the meeting.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Ansari addressed the correspondence received by the Board. The importance of the Anti-Racism Policy Work, TransLink funding and the concerns expressed over the return to school will be discussed at future Board / Committee meetings when everyone can provide the appropriate amount of attention.

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Education Policy & Planning Committee, September 15, 2020
i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Beattie
Trustee Beattie thanked Trustee Dhaliwal for chairing the September 15 meeting.
ii. Approval of the September 15, 2020 Education Policy and Planning Committee Minutes

**2020-051
Moved and Seconded**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the September 15, 2020 Education Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- iii. 2020-21 Board Annual Workplan - Board Policy 2 - Appendix A

2020-052
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the School District No. 40 (New Westminster) revised Board Policy 2 - Appendix A: Board Annual Workplan for 2020/2021.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Operations Policy & Planning Committee, September 15, 2020

- i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Connelly
Trustee Connelly appreciated the updates on the NWSS capital project.
- ii. Approval of the September 15, 2020 Operations Policy and Planning Committee Minutes

2020-053
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the September 15, 2020 Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- iii. 2019-20 Financial Statements

2020-054
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the 2019-20 Financial Statements as presented.

1 Opposed

CARRIED

- iv. Richard McBride Elementary School Re-naming Proposal

2020-055
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the creation of the re-naming committee for Richard McBride Elementary School and the proposed timeline.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- v. 2020-21 Board and Committee Meeting Schedule

2020-056
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the revised 2020-21 Board Meeting Schedule as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

a. Superintendent Update (K. Hachlaf)

i. COVID-19 Update

Superintendent Hachlaf provided highlights of the steps regarding communicating with families and staff around COVID-19 exposures.

- It was confirmed that the notification letters to families are sent out the same day as communication with Fraser Health is completed. As school communities become more familiar with this process, there should be less confusion around COVID-19 exposure communication. The communication flowchart was reviewed.
- Online professional development continues with staff throughout the year.
- District COVID-19 Health & Safety Plan was updated and will be updated as changes are introduced; changes will be highlighted in the document to make it clear what has changed.
- Associate Superintendent Naser explained the return to in-class instruction windows - immediate return before October 6 (22 students have returned to in-class instruction); January 4 return for applications received before December 11. All families in K-8 instruction have received this communication.
- Grade 10 student schedules - remote learning and in-class instruction scheduling in second quarter.
- Extension of meals program at alternate programs - to include RCAP.
- Attendance update - Ministry has provided details as to how to capture students in remote learning options; keeping students connected to their home school.
- City/School District collaboration - excited to continue to work with the City to identify spaces for childcare, such as the youth support program in Queensborough. The District is waiving rental fees for the youth program; in return the City has offered that teachers will be able to use the covered picnic area in Queensborough.

ii. Good Things Are Happening 2019-2020 Annual Report

Superintendent Hachlaf introduced Communications Manager, Kristen Keighley-Wight to review the Annual Report. The report will be finalized soon and will be available online. A special webpage will be setup on the District website dedicated to Capital Projects.

It was asked how parents may safely re-engage with their school community i.e. PAC meetings, volunteering, etc. Superintendent Hachlaf indicated that the Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) are currently conducting their meetings online and would continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

b. Update: COVID-19 Special Purpose Funding Grants

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham provided an update on the Federal Special Purpose Funding Grant and allocation of \$2.5 million as follows:

Learning Resources & Supports: \$1,677,446

- Teacher & Support staffing related to schools and online learning options: \$1,287,500

- Technology costs to support online learning options: \$289,946
- COVID-19 school supplies: \$100,000
- Health and Safety: \$865,000** (in addition to the \$488,210 already received from provincial funding)
- PPE, plexi-glass, disinfection foggers and medical accommodation supplies: \$100,000
- Increased electrical costs to run HVAC units longer to increase fresh air intake into schools: \$75,000
- Touchless faucets and other capital upgrades: \$325,000
- Outside learning spaces (3): \$365,000 - looking at obtaining these structures via Habitat; steel structure; looking at the larger more populated school sites, before making a decision, the school communities will be asked whether this will be suitable for the sites. Not every site will be conducive to these spaces.

Transportation: \$6,000

- Special needs students who have mobility challenges; additional cleaning measures.

Childcare: \$0

- At this time, had to prioritize dollars to support K-12 learners

Executive Director of Human Resources Weston indicated that the District is currently recruiting for TTOCs to augment the current number of TTOCs already in the District. This would help to limit the number of sites to which they are assigned and mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Nil.

9. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustees shared highlights of activities they participated in September.

10. QUESTION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

The public was given the opportunity to ask questions on matters that arose during the meeting.

11. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Tuesday, October 13: Education Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, 5:00pm - Via Webex

Tuesday, October 13: Operations Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, 6:15pm - Via Webex

Tuesday, October 27: School Board Meeting, 7:00pm - Via Webex

Reminders:

September 30: Orange Shirt Day

October 5: World Teachers' Day

12. REPORTING OUT FROM IN-CAMERA BOARD MEETING

- a. Record of the June 23, 2020 In-Camera Board Meeting
- b. Record of the August 20, 2020 Special In-Camera Meeting

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer